



## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 19, 2016

The Honorable Nancy Floreen  
Montgomery County Council President  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Floreen:

Bill 31-16- Taxation-Urban Agricultural Tax  
Credit-Established

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC, please accept this letter as our comments for Bill 31-16 Taxation-Urban Agricultural Tax Credit-Established.

The AAC believes the Bill 31-16 may create opportunities to encourage farming in down County areas where a majority of our citizens live and work. Encouraging farming down County can also help to promote the production of locally grown fresh food that continues to be important and a popular trend for many residents in the County.

When the County Council approved ZTA 13-04 Zoning Rewrite- Revisions in October of 2014, the Council recommended the use of farming be continued as a use in most of the zones down county. Both the AAC and the Montgomery County Farm Bureau were very appreciative of this outcome because we stated that the County should always encourage farming especially if the property owners desired to continue farming.

The AAC recognizes that Bill 31-16 may also have a negative impact on the collections of property taxes at a time when the County's economy is still recovering from the Great Recession.

The AAC thanks the County Council for this opportunity to present our views on Bill 31-16 and please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David Weitzer, Chairman

